

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARAMA 00936 131859Z  
ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-10  
AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00  
COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-04 ERDA-07  
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NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-02 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-05  
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R 131818Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3668  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS PARAMARIBO 936

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC; MEXICO FOR RFA

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EFIS, NS  
SUBJ: DRAFT LAW ON EXTENDED TERRITORIAL SEA AND  
ECONOMIC ZONE

1. TEXT OF DRAFT LAW EXTENDING SURINAM'S TERRITORIAL SEA  
TO TWELVE NAUTICAL MILES AND ESTABLISHING A 200-MILE ECONOMIC  
ZONE WAS PUBLISHED IN LOCAL NEWSPAPER SEPTEMBER 12. PROPOSED  
BILL, WHICH WAS APPROVED BY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (CABINET)  
IN JULY HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO PARLIAMENT FOR APPROVAL, BUT  
UNCERTAINTY OF GOVERNMENT'S POSITION THERE MAKES IT UNLIKELY  
THAT ACTION WILL BE TAKEN UNTIL AFTER A NEW GOVERNMENT IS  
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FORMED FOLLOWING ELECTIONS ON OCTOBER 31. THERE IS LITTLE  
DOUBT THAT BILL WILL BE PASSED THEREAFTER, HOWEVER,  
INASMUCH AS THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT ON THE NECESSITY  
FOR SUCH A MEASURE, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF FRENCH  
GUIANA'S ALREADY ENACTED 200-MILE FISHERY ZONE AND GUYANA'S  
PENDING ACTION TO IMPLEMENT A SIMILAR ZONE.

2. BILL DEFINES SURINAM SOVEREIGNTY AS EXTENDING TO TERRITORIAL SEA (MARKED BY A LINE, EACH POINT OF WHICH IS AT A DISTANCE OF TWELVE NAUTICAL MILES FROM THE CLOSEST SITUATED POINT OF THE ZERO METER DEPTH LINE, THE SO-CALLED BASE LINE ALONG THE COAST), THE AIR ABOVE IT, AND THE SEABED AND SUBSOIL BENEATH IT. SURINAM ALSO ASSERTS SOVEREIGN RIGHTS WITH REGARD TO EXPLORATION, EXPLOITATION, PRESERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES, LIVING AS WELL AS NON-LIVING ON THE SEABED AND IN THE SUBSOIL AND THE WATERS LOCATED ABOVE THEM IN AN ECONOMIC ZONE BORDERING ON AND EXTENDING FROM THE OUTER LIMIT OF THE TERRITIRIAL SEA TO A DISTANCE OF 200 NAUTICAL MILES, MEASURED FROM THE ZERO METER DEPTH LINE. GOS IS ALSO GIVEN THE POWER TO APPLY LAW TO (A) ESTABLISHMENT AND USE OF ARTIFICIAL ISLANDS, INSTALLATIONS AND SIMILAR STRUCTURES; (B) PROTECTION OF THE SEA ENVIRONMENT, INCLUDING TAKING MEASURES AGAINST POLLUTION; (C) CARRYING OUT OF SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATIONS; (D) GENERATION OF ENERGY FROM CURRENTS AND WINDS; AND (E) ALL OTHER ACTIVITIES DIRECTED TOWARD THE ECONOMIC EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION OF THE ZONE.

3. IN THE CONTEXT OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, BILL DECLARES THAT IN THE ECONOMIC ZONE ALL STATES HAVE FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION, FREEDOM OF OVERFLIGHT, FREEDOM TO LAY UNDERSEA CABLES AND PIPES, AND FREEDOM TO EXERCISE OTHER INTER- UNCLASSIFIED

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NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED RIGHTS IN CONNECTION WITH NAVIGATION AND COMMUNICATION.

4. LEGISLATION REQUIRES LICENSING BY GOS IN ADVANCE OF ANY ACTION WHICH TOUCH RIGHTS CLAIMED BY SURIMAN AND FURTHER PROVIED FOR REVOCATION OF SUCH A LICENSE IF CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO IT ARE NOT MET. INTENTIONAL VIOLATION OF THE LAW'S PROVISIONS ARE PUNISHABLE BY A PRISON SENTENCE OF NOT MORE THAN SIX YEARS AND/OR FINE OF NOT MORE THAN FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND GULDERS (\$282,000). UNINTENTIONAL VIOLATIONS ARE CONSIDERED A LESSER OFFENSE AND ARE PUNISHABLE BY NOT MORE THAN ONE YEAR IN JAIL AND/OR A FINE OF ONE HUNDERD THOUSAND GULDERS (\$56,000). NONFULFILLMENT OF THE CONDITIONS OF A LICENSE OR ACTION CONTRARY TO SUCH CONDITIONS IS PUNISHABLE BY A FINE OF NOT MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND GULDERS.

5. IMPLEMENTS USED IN ANY ILLEGAL ACTS OR THE GOODS OBTAINED BY THEM MAY BE CONFISCATED. GOODS WHICH MAY SPOIL (READ FISH AND SHRIMP) CAN BE PUBLICLY SOLD WITH THE PROCEEDS ALSO SUBJECT TO CONFISCATION. WHEN PUNISHABLE ACT IS PERFORMED BY OR ON BEHALF OF A CORPORATE BODY, PERSON WHO

ORDERED IT OR WHO ACTUALLY DIRECTED THE PROHIBITED ACTION  
OR OMISSION CAN BE PROSECUTED AND PUNISHED.

6. SURIMAN ARMY AND OTHERS APPOINTED BY MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND POLICE WILL HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENFORCING THE LAW, WITH AUTHORITY TO SEIZE IMPLEMENTS USED TO VIOLATE THE LAW. FYI: SURIMAN ARMY HAS ALREADY ACQUIRED TWO OF THREE HIGH SEAS PATROL VESSELS ARMED WITH 40 MM BOFORS TO CARRY OUT THIS ROLE, AND THE THIRD IS EXPECTED BY LATE THIS YEAR OR EARLY IN 1978.

7. COMMENT: EXTENSION OF TERRITORIAL SEA AND DECLARATION OF 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE ARE SEEN BY GOS AS ESSENTIAL TO THE PROTECTION OF SURINAM'S FISHING INTERESTS WHICH HAVE UNCLASSIFIED

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BEEN JEOPARDIZED BY THREAT TO SHRIMP PROCESSING INDUSTRY IN PARAMARIBO RESULTING FROM FRENCH GUIANA'S INSTITUTION OF A 200-MILE FISHERY ZONE. THERE IS A GENERAL FEELING THAT PASSAGE OF SUCH LEGISLATION IS NECESSARY TO PUT SURINAM ON AN EQUAL FOOTING IN ANY FUTURE DISCUSSIONS OF A REGIONAL REGIME GOVERNING EXPLOITATION OF THIS AREA'S SHRIMP RESOURCES.  
GUYANESE FISHING BOATS WHICH FROM TIME TO TIME ARE STOPPED IN SURIMAN WATERS AND WHICH ATTRACT SUBSTANTIAL PRESS COVERAGE ALSO PROVIDE INCENTIVES FOR THE GOS TO ACT. SINCE SURIMAN ARMY WILL HAVE SOME CAPABILITY TO ENFORCE LAW, WE WOULD EXPECT TO SEE A FEW SEIZURES OF UNLICENSED FISHING BOATS AT SAME TIME SURINAM IS SEEKING MORE EQUITABLE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SHARING FISHING RESOURCES WITH ITS NEIGHBORS, ONCE THE PROPOSED LAW IS ON THE BOOKS.

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## Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009